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- 2) Private Practitioners of Medicine -- for the purchase of vaccine for private patients.

During the period of short supply, it is likely that the National Advisory Committee will recommend that each manufacturer allocate not less than 1 percent of his supply to each State, fair proportions going to State health departments and to private practitioners. These proportions would be worked out after consultation with each State committee.

Five States have already appropriated funds for purchase of the vaccine and thirteen other State legislatures are considering appropriations for this purpose.

Persons who are unable to purchase the vaccine and the services of a private physician will need help. In addition to the aid being provided by the States, it is possible that some form of financial aid will be necessary from the Federal Government. The meeting on April 27 of 50 private groups revealed widespread opinion that some financial assistance from the Federal Government is needed for low income families.

Authority for appropriations for grants to States already exists, but a special additional appropriation would be required.

Technical Committee on Dosage

In the field trials last year three doses of polio vaccine of one cc. each were given at intervals of 2½ weeks.

Prior to April 12, 1955, it was anticipated by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis that this schedule would be recommended for investigation. On this basis, the National Foundation contracted for \$5.0 million cc. for delivery June 30, 1955. This amount was to supplement \$2.0 million cc. contracted for in connection with the field trials last year.

On April 12, Dr. Salk announced that from his recent experiments a dosage schedule of one cc. should be given twice, two or three weeks apart, with a "booster" dose seven months later. This schedule was adopted by the Foundation.

Like all new biological products, the time-dose relationship requires experimentation in order to arrive at the optimum dosage schedule. It is possible that the amount of vaccine used can be reduced to less than one cc. per dose. In order to keep abreast of the results of experiments, the Public Health Service has set up a Technical Committee on Dosage to recommend the best dosage schedules.

Action for Advisory Committee

To sum up, there are two immediate and urgent problems to be considered at the Monday, May 2, meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Poliomyelitis Vaccine. They are:

1. The establishment and announcement of priorities for age groups throughout the Nation;
2. The development of a formula for equitable distribution of the vaccine during the short supply period on a State-by-State basis to be voluntarily undertaken by the manufacturers;

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For Information